

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 449

By Garrett

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Colby Chance Hitchcock and his family for their philanthropic efforts to benefit congenital heart defect research.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to honor those exemplary Tennesseans who, though they have met with great challenges, have persevered and given back to others who have experienced similar circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Colby Chance Hitchcock was born on August 4, 2008, with severe congenital heart defects—tricuspid atresia and hypoplastic right heart syndrome, along with other minor issues; he spent the first eleven days of his life in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, where his heart and lungs were closely monitored; and

WHEREAS, in order to survive, Colby would need three major heart surgeries during the first three years of his life; the first came when he was only two months old, when the cardiologist in the emergency room decided he needed a Blalock-Taussig shunt to increase blood flow to his lungs after his oxygen levels dropped from the mid-eighties to the low fifties; and

WHEREAS, in August 2009, after Colby Hitchcock's first birthday, he returned for his second operation, during which a permanent shunt was placed into his heart; resilient as ever, he was home from the hospital only five days later; and

WHEREAS, Colby's third surgery occurred in March 2011, when he was two and a half years old; this surgery completely bypassed the right side of his heart, leaving him with only half of a functioning heart; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his three major heart surgeries, Colby Hitchcock has endured three cardiac catheterizations; multiple x-rays, echocardiograms, electrocardiograms, and

ambulance rides to the emergency room; physical therapy to help with his gross motor delays; feeding therapy; holter monitors; and innumerable cardiology visits; and

WHEREAS, throughout Colby's many trials, his mother, father, and older brother, Brody, have been with him every step of the way, supporting him and cheering him on as he continues to triumph over his health-related setbacks; and

WHEREAS, because of this often harrowing journey in combating Colby's congenital heart defects, his parents have extensive first-hand knowledge of the dire importance of research, blood donation, and organ donation for those with congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, putting compassion into action, the Hitchcocks have tirelessly endeavored to contribute to research that could help Colby and other children like him; so far, they have donated \$17,000 toward congenital heart defect research through bake sales, personal donations, and Burn Boot Camp Hendersonville's "Burnin' for Bucks" event; and

WHEREAS, the Hitchcock family has shown great tenacity throughout Colby's medical journey, and their philanthropic efforts for the benefit of congenital heart defect research are most worthy of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend Colby Chance Hitchcock and his family for their strength, resiliency, and compassion and their philanthropic efforts to benefit congenital heart defect research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.